

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0007027 (Saruta). Claims 4 and 6-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Saruta in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0174180 (Nunokawa). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus for effecting printing using a recording head mounted thereto, the apparatus including communicating means for communication with an information processing apparatus. The apparatus includes control means, discrimination means and communication control means. The control means determines a kind of device among a plurality of kinds in response to a predetermined operation for setting the kind of the printing apparatus, and operable for the kind thus determined. The discrimination means discriminates whether the kind of device is determined or not. The communication control means controls communication with the information processing apparatus by the communicating means in accordance with a result of discrimination of the discrimination means. When a result of the discrimination is negative, the communication control means

effects control so as to prevent supplying of a signal to the information processing apparatus.

As recited in independent Claim 15, the present invention relates to a control method for a printing apparatus for effecting printing using a recording head mounted thereto, the apparatus including communicating means for communication with an information processing apparatus. The method includes a step of determining a kind of device among a plurality of kinds in response to a predetermined operation for setting the kind of the printing apparatus, and operable for the kind thus determined. The method further includes a step of discriminating whether the kind of device is determined or not, and a step of controlling the apparatus in accordance with the determined kind of device, and controlling the communication of the communicating means with the information processing apparatus, when a result of the discrimination is affirmative. When the result of the discrimination is negative, the control step effects control so as to prevent supplying of a signal to the information processing apparatus.

The above arrangement and method can effectively prevent a printer driver from being installed in a host computer when the kind of the printer is not determined.

Saruta is directed to ink cartridges for use in a printer. Each ink cartridge has a storage element that stores specific information relating to the ink cartridge, such as the date of manufacture. When the printer is turned on, a controller determines whether or not an ink cartridge has been replaced by referring to an ink cartridge replacement flag or other information. The controller reads data from the storage elements of the ink cartridges and determines whether or not the ink cartridges are suitable for the printer. If so, the

printing operation is allowed. If not, the printing operation is not allowed and information representing the prohibition of printing is displayed. Note paragraph [0077].

However, the operation of displaying such non-operative state in Saruta requires, in effect, some signal to be supplied to the information processing apparatus for display. Accordingly, Saruta fails to disclose or suggest at least that when a result of discrimination as to whether a kind of device is determined or not is negative, effecting control so as to prevent supplying of a signal to the information processing apparatus, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 15.

Thus, Saruta fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

As discussed previously, Nunokawa is directed to a printing apparatus and method in which at least one of an ink container, printing medium and printhead can be attached together with a memory that stores an acquisition program for acquiring a print control program. However, Nunokawa is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Saruta noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, independent Claims 1 and 15 are patentable over the citation of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 15. Dependent Claims 2-14 and 16-20 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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